

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to the Applicant's response filed on January 14, 2010.

Claims 40 - 42 have been amended by the Applicant. Claims 33, 35, 37 – 42, where

Claims 40 – 42 are in independent form, are presented for examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 14, 2010 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alex R. Sluzas on March 25, 2010, continuing previous telephonic interviews on March 23, 2010 and March 15, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 35, 38, and 41 are cancelled.

Claim 40: A method of generating a group of persons from a plurality of participating persons for enabling networking, said method comprising:

(a) each participating person selecting a set of indications, the set of indications consisting only of at least one other participating person that said each participating person wishes to meet;

(b) recording the set of indications in a database after selecting;

(c) processing the set of indications recorded in the database by a computerized system to form the group, the processing comprising:

(i) including as a first member of the group any participating person who has indicated at least one other participating person in the set of indications, thereby becoming a first last new member of the group;

(ii) including the group only one other participating person indicated in the set of indications of the first last new member of the group, the one other participating person thereby then becoming the a second last new member of the group after joining the group, the second last new member of the group superseding the first last new member of the group, so that there is only one last new member of the group at any point in time;

(iii) including in the group only one other participating person indicated in the set of indications of the second last new member of the group, the one other participating person thereby then becoming a third last new member of the group after joining the group, the third last new member of the group superseding the

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second last new member of the group, so that there is only one last new member of the group at any point in time; and

(iv) repeatedly including only one new person to the group from the set of indications of the last new member of the group until a new person to be included in the group is already included in the group.

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Claim 41: A method of generating a group of persons from a plurality of participating persons for enabling networking, said method comprising:

(a) each participating person selecting a set of indications, the set of indications consisting only of at least one other participating person that said each participating person wishes to meet;

(b) recording the set of indications in a database after selecting;

(c) processing the set of indications recorded in the database by a computerized system to form the group, the processing comprising:

(i) including as a first member of the group any participating person who has indicated at least one other participating person in the set of indications, thereby becoming a first last new member of the group;

(ii) including the group only one other participating person indicated in the set of indications of the first last new member of the group, the one other participating person thereby then becoming the a second last new member of the group after joining the group, the second last new member of the group

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superseding the first last new member of the group, so method working in such a way that there is only one last new member of the group at any point in time;

(iii) including in the group only one other participating person indicated in the set of indications of the second last new member of the group, the one other participating person thereby then becoming a third last new member of the group after joining the group, the third last new member of the group superseding the second last new member of the group, so that there is only one last new member of the group at any point in time; and

(iv) repeatedly including only one new person to the group from the set of indications of the last new member of the group until a new person to be included in the group is already included in the group.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 33, 37, 39, 40, and 42 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: (See also Applicant's Remarks filed on July, 16, 2009).

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a method of generating a group of entities for enabling networking where the processing of a set of indications recorded in the database by a computerized system to form the group comprises:

(i) including as a first member of the group any participating person who has indicated at least one other participating person in the set of indications, thereby becoming a first last new member of the group;

(ii) including in the group only one other participating person indicated in the set of indications of the first last new member of the group, the one other participating person thereby then becoming the a second last new member of the group after joining the group, the second last new member of the group superseding the first last new member of the group, so that there is only one last new member of the group at any point in time;

(iii) including in the group only one other participating person indicated in the set of indications of the second last new member of the group, the one other participating person thereby then becoming a third last new member of the group after joining the group, the third last new member of the group superseding the second last new member of the group, so that there is only one last new member of the group at any point in time; and

(iv) repeatedly including only one new person to the group from the set of indications of the last new member of the group until a new person to be included in the group is already included in the group

as disclosed by Claims 40 and 42.

Claims 33, 37, and 39 depend from allowed Claims 40 and 42 and, therefore, are also allowed.

The following prior art was either previously applied and/or describes the general state of the art, but fails to teach or disclose the distinctive features of the claimed invention, as discussed above.

Wilens (U.S. Patent 7,092,952) discloses a system and method for grouping subscribers using a database to store profile information for each subscriber and using the stored profile information to determine similarities between the subscribers to form a list which can then be edited by the subscriber.

McGeachie (U.S. Appl. 2002/0023090) discloses a system and method of determining connections between people by determining one or more intermediate parties that are common with a source party and a target party from a database based on commonalities between the intermediate parties and the target party.

Cohen (U.S. Patent 7,203,674) discloses a system and method of determining if users of an online matching service have a mutual interest in each other and keeping track of those users with whom there was a mutual attraction for each user and storing that list within a database.

Olivier (U.S. Patent 6,480,885) discloses a system and method for establishing electronic mailing lists by matching subscribers to other subscribers based on the level of matching criteria through the use of a web server coupled to a database.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tae K. Kim, whose telephone number is (571) 270-1979. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas, can be reached on (571) 272-6776. The fax phone number for submitting all Official communications is (703) 872-9306. The fax phone number for submitting informal communications such as drafts, proposed amendments, etc., may be faxed directly to the examiner at (571) 270-2979.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free).

/Tae K. Kim/

Tae K. Kim
Examiner, Art Unit 2453

/Joseph Thomas/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2453

March 25, 2010